Amendments to the Specification:

Please substitute the following replacement paragraphs into the specification

[0031] Reaction cuvette load station 61 and reaction vessel load station 63 are respectively positioned proximate outer cuvette carousel 14 and inner vessel carousel 16 and are adapted to load reaction cuvettes 24 into cuvette ports 20 sideways as described later and reaction vessels 25 into vessel ports 22 using for example a sliding chute 65. In operation, used cuvettes 24 in which an assay has been finally conducted, are washed and dried in a wash station 67 like that described in patent publication number 2005-0014274 ~~co-pending application Ser. No.: 10/____,____~~ , assigned to the assignee of the present invention. Subsequent assays are conducted in cleaned used cuvettes 24 unless dictated otherwise for reasons like disclosed in patent publication number 2004/0115095 ~~co-pending application Ser. No.: 10/____,____~~ , assigned to the assignee of the present invention. Cuvette unload station 59 is adapted to remove unusable reaction cuvettes 24 from cuvette ports 20 again using a translatable robotic arm 65 like seen on load stations 61 and 63.

[0032] Fig. 5 is a external isometric view of reaction cuvette 24, like that described in patent publication number 2005-0013746 ~~co-pending application Ser. No.: 10/____,____~~ , assigned to the assignee of the present invention, as having features to inhibit liquid wicking along an interior wall surface so that the presence of undesirable contaminants on the exterior surface of reaction cuvette 24 is minimized and the efficiency of washing by wash station 67 is increased. The reaction cuvette 24 shown in FIG. 5 may be formed as an essentially rectangular box-shaped part 24 with a mutually opposed front wall and back wall 70 perpendicular to and separating two mutually opposed side walls 72. A generally rectangular lower section 74 closed by a curved bottom surface 75 supports an open top section 76 with opening 77. A pair of projecting ledges 78 are formed on opposing sides of cuvette 24, each having a latching bulge 79 to facilitate automated handling formed therein. Anti-wicking fillets 71 ~~80~~ are formed as a smooth transition that effectively blends the intersections of front and back walls 70 and side walls 72.

[0033] The reaction cuvettes of FIG. 5 are typically molded of a hard plastic material and then automatically loaded into a cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ like that seen in FIG. 6 and exemplary of the present invention. Cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ comprises a curved, generally rectangular, storage cell 81 with an upper portion 81U and a lower portion 81L (best seen in

FIGs. 7 and 8) with an integrated alignment and locking band 83 having two pairs of rails 83R and two locking tabs 83T formed on the exterior of storage cell 81 in the lower portion 81L. Rails 83R ~~83T~~ and locking tabs 83T are provided in order to vertically align cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ and lock cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ within respectively aligned grooves and recess within cuvette load station 61. A moveable closure 102 adapted to prevent reaction cuvettes 24 from sliding out of cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ is located in the lower portion 81L. In one embodiment, moveable closure 102 comprises a vertically slideable gate 84 with a number of gate ribs 85 (best seen in FIG. 13) disposed within a corresponding number of open vertical slots 86, also in the lower front portion 81LF of storage cell 81 and on the two opposing sides 81S of storage cell 81 and on the bottom back 81BB of storage cell 81. A number of beveled gate notches 94 are also formed on the inner ribbed surface of gate 24 to meet a purpose explained later. A gate stop 87 is formed in the lower front portion 81LF a small distance above vertical slots 86 protruding slightly from storage cell 81 so as to stop the vertical displacement of gate 84 (FIG. 7). In an alternate embodiment, moveable closure 102 comprises a hinged gate 104 spring-loaded by hinge-spring 106 and adapted to swing outwards from a closed position preventing reaction cuvettes 24 from sliding out of cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ to an opened position allowing reaction cuvettes 24 to be ejected from cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ (FIG. 7A). In the instance of hinged gate 104 being employed, vertical slots 86 and gate stop 87 are unnecessary. A inclined ramp 103 formed in lower front portion 81LF automatically opens the hinged gate 104 when cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ is installed on analyzer 10. Hinged gate 104 may be spring loaded so that it automatically closes when cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ is removed from analyzer 10 to prevent reaction cuvettes 24 from sliding out of cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~. A removable cap 81C is sized to snugly cover the upper portion 81U, also to prevent reaction cuvettes 24 from sliding out of cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~.

[0034] As seen in the top view of cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ in FIG. 9, having cap 81C removed, storage cell 81 is largely hollow except for a number of next adjacent storage chutes 88 enclosed by chute walls 89, each chute wall 89 having a two opposing pairs of ribs 90 protruding therefrom and into the interior space of each storage chute 88. For the purpose of illustration, a reaction cuvette 24 may be seen in dashed lines as disposed within a storage chute 88 and constrained in a horizontal orientation by the two opposing pairs of ribs 90. The primary purpose of cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ is to hold a plurality of reaction cuvettes 24 stacked one upon another in each of the storage chutes 88 in a horizontal orientation, meaning that a line 91 drawn between curved bottom surface 75 and open top section 76 of reaction cuvette 24 is generally parallel to chute walls 89.

[0035] As seen in the bottom view of cuvette magazine 80 ~~82~~ in FIG. 10, a flat pad 92 is formed at the lower extremity of each chute wall 89, except for the two chute walls 89 on the sides 81S of storage cell 81 where a flat ledge 93 about half the size of pad 90 protrudes therefrom and into the interior space of the respective two storage chutes 88. Again, a reaction cuvette 24 may also be seen in dashed lines as disposed within a storage chute 88 and prevented from falling out of storage chute 88 by flat pads 92 and flat ledges 93. Only a single flat pad 92 and flat ledge 93 are shown in dashed lines in FIG. 9 for purposes of simplicity in the drawing. As best seen in FIGs. 7, 8 and 11, the front and back curved surfaces 81F and 81B of storage cell 81 do not extend to the bottom of cuvette magazine 80 so that a number of cuvette ejection openings 80E are formed at the front surface 81F between chute walls 89. FIG. 11 illustrates how a reaction cuvette 24, in dotted lines, may be held between two chute walls 89 and flat pads 92 and flat ledges 93, as well as illustrating how a reaction cuvette 24 may be freely displaced or ejected from cuvette magazine 80 through ejection openings 80E formed at front surface 81F.